OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati (All India Radio) has informed that instead of South Zone Concert on Fridays, which had only limited coverage for the Southern States, the Karnatic Music has now been included in the National Programme of music on every Saturday and Sunday, to provide wider coverage and better projection of Karnatic music artists.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation package for SAIL

*318. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the rehabilitation package proposed to strengthen Steel Authority of India Ltd. instead of disinvestment of SAIL units opposed by the Consultative Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): With a view to improve the long term viability of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Government in February, 2000 approved a financial-cum-business restructuring package which among other things include conversion of certain units, engaged in non-core activities, into joint venture. This package is under implementation and there is no other rehabilitation package under consideration of Government for SAIL.

Supply of Natural Gas to Tengakhat Gas Cracker Unit

*319. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest agreement of supplying natural gas to Tengakhat Gas Cracker Unit made by his Ministry;

(b) the price fixed per 1000 standard cubic metre of gas which will be supplied to the unit;

(c) whether there are any other conditions in supplying gas; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Gas Cracker Unit is to be shifted from Tengakhat to Bogbarua in the same district?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) M/s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL) which holds the Letter of Intent (LOI) for setting up the gas cracker project in Assam and Oil India Limited (OIL) have initiated the draft gas supply agreement on 6.7.2000 and have agreed to execute the final gas supply agreement after obtaining approval of their respective Board of Directors and acceptance by the financial institutions from the RAPL side. It has been agreed to supply the gas at a price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic metres.

(d) Yes, Sir. RAPL had earlier identified as site at Tengakhat in Dibrugarh district. However, due to technical requirements an alternate site has been identified at Lapetkata in Dibrugarh district.

Withdrawal from Oil Pool account by the Ministry of Finance

*320. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has taken out Rs. 4400 crore from the oil pool account for reducing the budget deficit;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Finance has been asked to return this money; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) From 1982-83 onwards, when the oil pool account started generating surpluses, deposits were made into Public Account of India. The balance of such deposit as on 31.3.1999 was Rs. 4,429 crores. The amount is still receivable and forms part of "Other liabilities" of Government of India, Ministry of Finance has